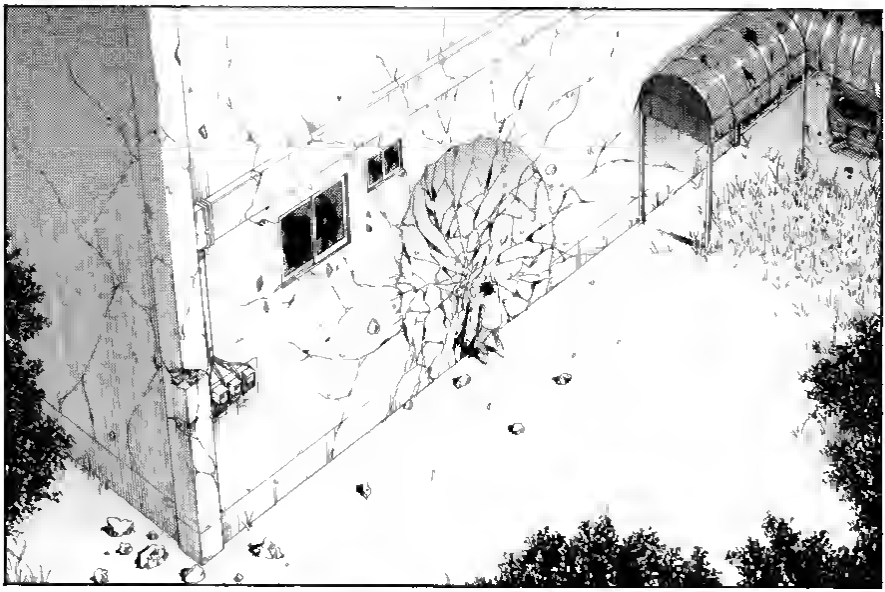
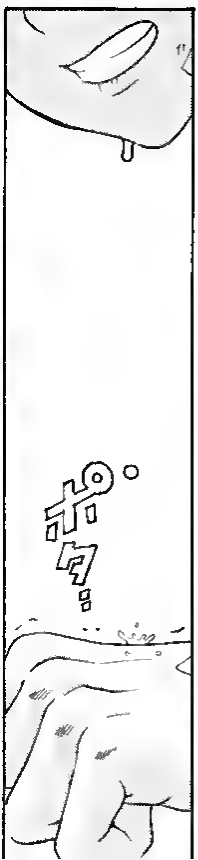
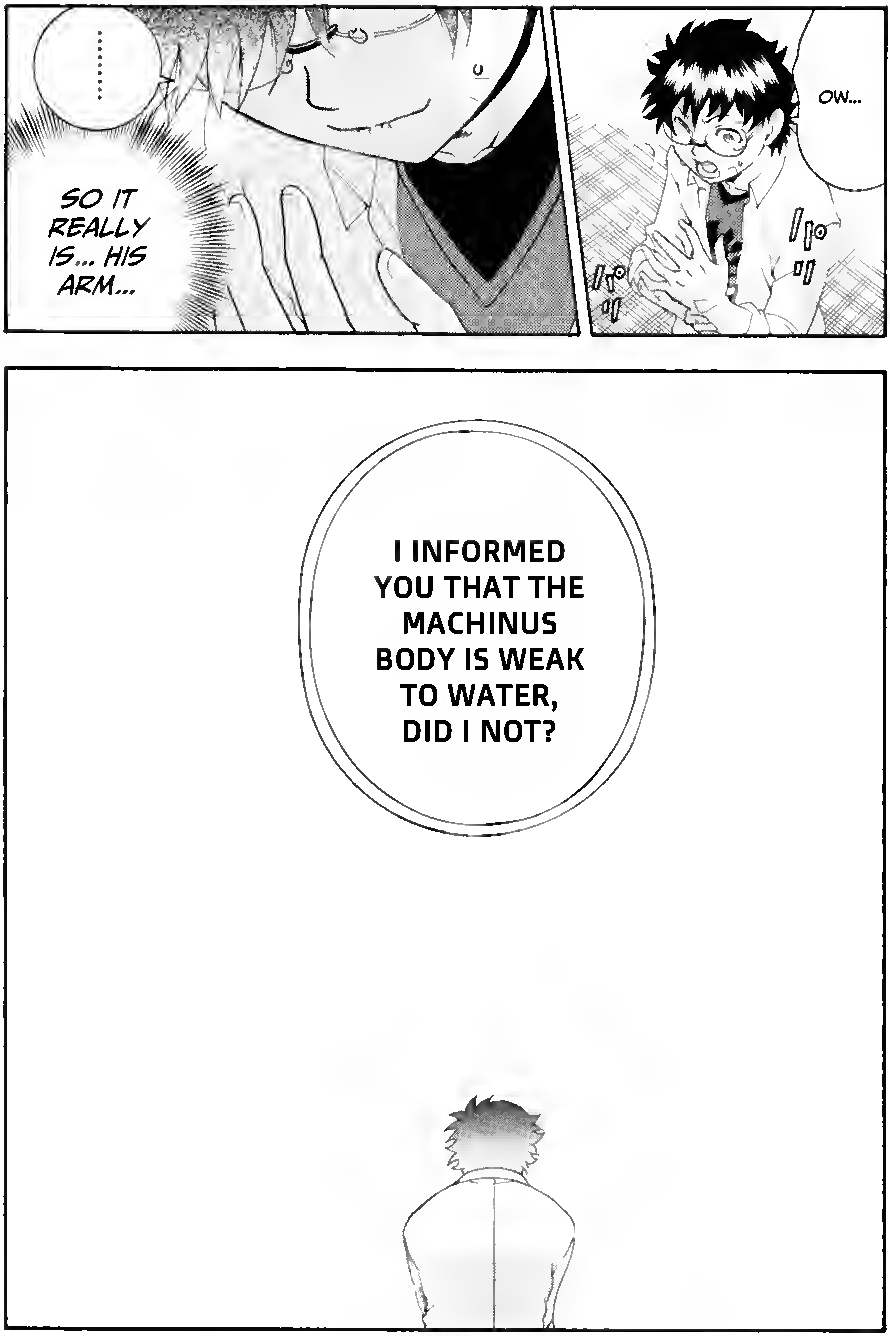
THE 33RD TIME
THIS TIME, IT'S MY TURN



GAAH!



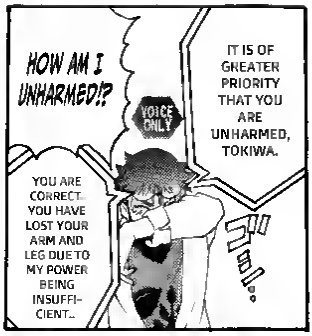
MACHINA...


SO IT REALLY IS... HIS ARM...
OW...
I INFORMED YOU THAT THE MACHINUS BODY IS WEAK TO WATER, DID I NOT?

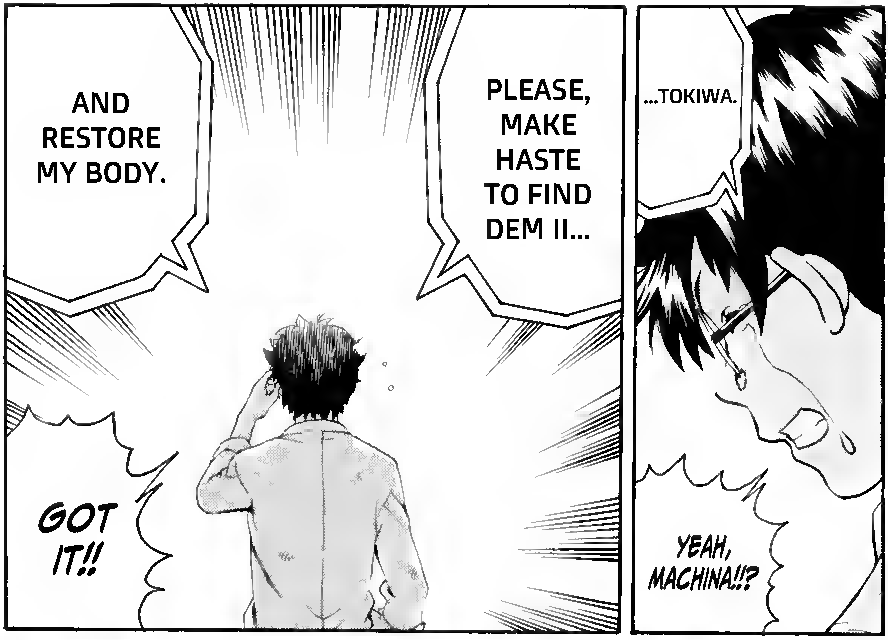
MA...
MACHINA!? IS THAT YOU!!?
YES. WHEN IN CONTACT WITH WATER, PLEAST ATTEMPT TO REGULATE POWER OUTPUT TO BELOW 1%.
MY ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION IS "NO."
YOU'RE ALIVE!!?
WH— WHERE ARE YOU!? I MEAN...

HOWEVER, DUE TO THE LARGE AMOUNT OF THE DEUSNIUM ALLOY IN MY NEURAL CORE, MY MENTAL FUNCTIONS HAVE SURVIVED AND ARE BEING STORED IN MY APARTMENT.
MY BOOY WAS SEVERELY DAMAGED AS A RESULT OF MY SELF-DESTRUCTION.
I AM A HUMANOID, AND HAVE THEREFORE NEVER BEEN "ALIVE."
AHA... AHAHAHA!
SO YOU'RE OKAY THEN!?
キョロ
MY ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION IS ALSO "NO."
キョロ
TH...
THANK GOOO-OOOD!!!

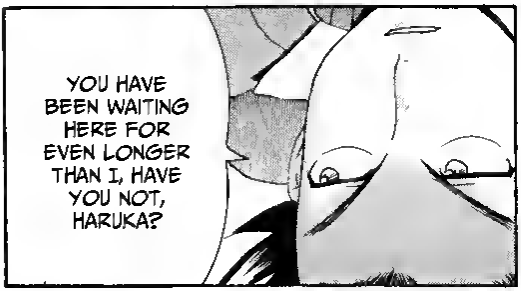
NO!!


HOW AM I UNHARMED!?
VOICE ONLY
IT IS OF GREATER PRIORITY THAT YOU ARE UNHARMED, TOKIWA.
YOU ARE CORRECT. YOU HAVE LOST YOUR ARM AND LEG DUE TO MY POWER BEING INSUFFI-CIENT..

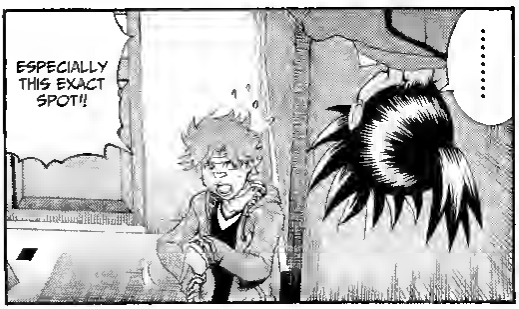
IT'S NO ONE ELSE'S FAULT!!
THIS IS BECAUSE OF MY CHOICE!!


AND RESTORE MY BODY.
PLEASE, MAKE HASTE TO FIND DEM II...
...TOKIWA.
GOT IT!!
YEAH, MACHINA!!?

OH, AND PLEASE REQUEST THAT HE ADD A FUNCTION TO ALLOW ME TO SHED TEARS.
GOT IT!!


YOU HAVE BEEN WAITING HERE FOR EVEN LONGER THAN I, HAVE YOU NOT, HARUKA?

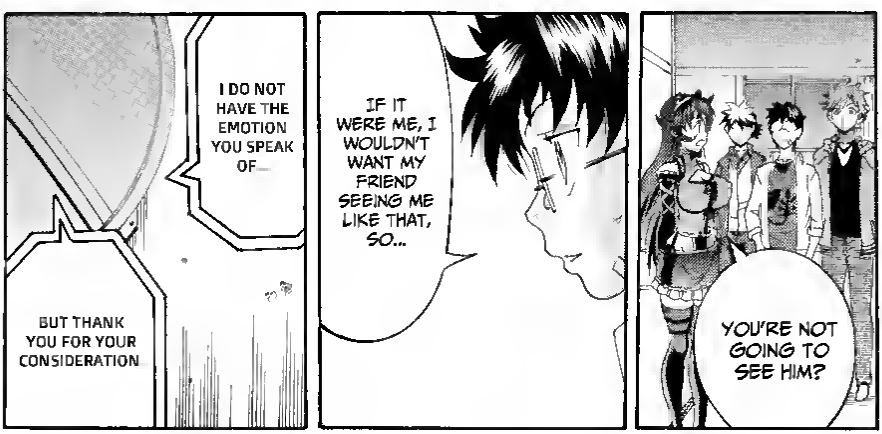
I—I'M NOT WAITING OR ANYTHING, I JUST HAPPEN TO LIKE IT HERE.


ESPECIALLY THIS EXACT SPOT!!
.....

TOKIWA IS LATE. HE MUST HAVE NOT FULLY RECOVERED YET.
IF YOU'RE GONNA BE SUCH A PESSIMIST, JUST GO HOME.

I NEED TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO USE THIS POWER...
TOKIWA!!
DWAH!!
TOKIWA!!
AH...
WAH!!
ARE YOU OKAY, TOKIWA!?
I'M FINE! YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAVED ME, REMEMBER!?
YOU'RE OKAAAAY... THANK GOD, YOU'RE OKAAAAY...
Can't breathe
WELL, I GUESS IT WAS TECHNICALLY THE OTHER REIN WHO SAVED ME.

MACHINA...
.....
THE "REIN" WHO ISN'T ME SAID THAT SINCE MACHINA'S NEURAL CORE WAS IN HIS ROOM...
WE COULD ASK HIM ABOUT GETTING A NEW ARM AND LEG.
HE'S RIGHT NEXT DOOR TO ME, BUT...


I DO NOT HAVE THE EMOTION YOU SPEAK OF—
BUT THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION
IF IT WERE ME, I WOULDN'T WANT MY FRIEND SEEING ME LIKE THAT, SO...
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO SEE HIM?

.....
IT WILL BE DIFFICULT FOR ME TO PROTECT YOU, TOKIWA.
HOWEVER, IF ANOTHER ENEMY, SUCH AS ENIGMA, WERE TO COME UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES,
GH.. RIGHT NOW...
I JUST NEED TO PROTECT ARIA BY MYSELF...
YOU ARE RIGHT. IF ANOTHER ENEMY OF THE SAME CALIBER AS THIS PREVIOUS ONE WERE TO APPEAR..
EVEN WERE I TO FIGHT WITH MY FULL POWER, I WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO OFFER A GUARANTEE.
BUT...
THANKS, REIN.
IT'S OKAY, TOKIWA! I'LL PROTECT YOU, SO YOU'LL BE FINE!!

THIS TIME,
IT'S MY TURN TO PROTECT YOU, MACHINA!!

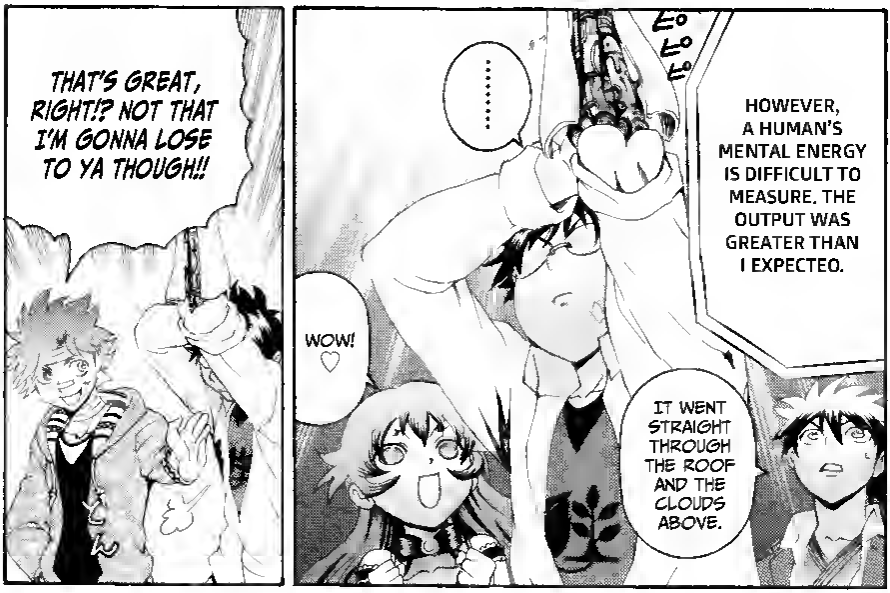
...BUT I REALLY...
DON'T KNOW HOW TO FIGHT AT ALL...
KANATA.
HM?
WILL YOU TEACH ME?
TEACH ME HOW TO FIGHT!!

PLEASE, DO NOT BE RECKLESS. YOU MAY HAVE THE QUALITIES OF A LEADER..
BUT YOU HAVE ALMOST NO COMBAT ABILITY WHATSO-EVER.
COMBAT ABILITY
THAT IS NOT THE CASE.
HUH?
TOKIWA, PLEASE POINT YOUR LEFT ARM UPWARDS
?
LIKE THIS?
WHA!?
AH!!
HEY... WAI...
CHARGING
IS THIS-!?

RING
ASTER.

SO..
HE ENDED UP LOSING HIS SHADOW AFTER ALL.
THE PRICE HE PAID TO BE FRIENDS WITH THOSE FROM ANOTHER WORLD...
WAS THE ORDINARY LIFE HE HAD LED UNTIL NOW.
AND A NEW HERO...
HAS BEEN BORN...

WAIT, WHERE'S ALL THAT ENERGY COMING FROM?
MACHINUS WEAPONS, ALL GREEN AS A RESULT OF REIN'S REMODELING OF YOUR BODY, YOU HAVE ACCESS TO NEARLY ALL OF MY WEAPONRY.
TOKIWA'S MENTAL ENERGY IS BEING CONVERTED AND USED AS POWER THROUGH SCIENCE THAT SURPASSES EVEN MY OWN.
HAHA! GO ME!


THAT'S GREAT, RIGHT!? NOT THAT I'M GONNA LOSE TO YA THOUGH!!
WOW!
IT WENT STRAIGHT THROUGH THE ROOF AND THE CLOUDS ABOVE.
HOWEVER, A HUMAN'S MENTAL ENERGY IS DIFFICULT TO MEASURE. THE OUTPUT WAS GREATER THAN I EXPECTED.

HUUUH!? HUUUUH!?
IT APPEARS THE OUTPUT WILL REQUIRE SOME FINE-TUNING.
HIS... HIS EYES HAVE GONE WHITE!!
HEY, GET IT TOGETHER, YASAKA!
HUH!?
HOW CAN YOU TALK SO CALMLY AFTER DOING THAT TO AN INVALID!?
IT SEEMS THAT THIS WILL BE AN EFFECTIVE WEAPON FOR TOKIWA TO USE
HIS PULSE IS GETTING WEAKER!!
THAT'S JUST PUTTING HIM IN EVEN MORE DANGER!!
HUUH!? TOKIWA, WAKE UUUUP!!